

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 12654 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BRUSSELS LONDON 24 MAY.

QUOTE

UNCLASSIFIED PARIS 12654

STATE FOR FAA WASHDC

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CONCORDE DEMONSTRATION FLIGHTS TO RIO

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TAKEN FROM AGENCE FRANCE
PRESS (AFP) AND SUPPLEMENTS IN MUCH GREATER DETAIL
INFORMATION YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
V 145 DATED MAY 22, 1974.

"CONCORDE WILL, STARTING NEXT MONDAY, MAKE A SERIES OF
ENDURANCE FLIGHTS BETWEEN PARIS AND RIO DE JANEIRO,
ANNOUNCES AEROSPATIALE, THE MANUFACTURER. THE AIRCRAFT
WILL BE 002. IT WILL TAKE OFF FROM CHARLES DE GAULLE AIR-
PORT. CONCORDE, GIVEN THE DISTANCE IT MUST COVER,
(9166 KMS OR 5,697 NAUT. MILES), WILL HAVE TO MAKE A FUEL
STOP AT DAKAR (SENEGAL). DURATION OF THE TRIP WILL BE
6HRS AND 10 MINUTES OF FLYING TIME (50 MINUTES FOR RE-
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FUELING ARE PLANNED AT DAKAR). THE ROUTE PARIS-RIO DE

JANEIRO WITHOUT STOP IS THE LONGEST IN THE WORLD. TO DO THIS TRIP SUBSONIC JETS REQUIRE 11HRS 35 MINUTES OF FLYING TIME. WITH STOP AT DAKAR, AS IS CASE FOR CONCORDE, IT TAKES 13 HRS 10 MINUTES.

IT IS PLANNED THAT CONCORDE MAKE ONE FLIGHT PER DAY UNTIL JUNE 5 OR A TOTAL OF 10 FLIGHTS. IT IS ALSO PLANNED, TECHNICAL CONDITIONS PERMITTING, ROUND TRIP FLIGHTS THE SAME DAY, PROBABLY DURING THE LAST DAYS. DURING THESE TEST FLIGHTS, THE FRANCO-BRITISH SUPERSONIC WILL RESPECT ALL REGULATIONS IMPOSED ON SUBSONIC COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. SEVERAL FLIGHT CREWS WILL SHARE PILOTING DURING THE CROSSINGS. THE PILOTS WILL BE AS USUAL: ANDRE TURCART, DIRECTOR FLIGHT TESTS AEROSPATIALE, GILBERT DEFER AND JEAN FRANCHI.

BECAUSE OF TEST EQUIPMENT TAKEN ON BOARD CONCORDE 002 HAS ONLY A 32 PASSENGER CAPACITY. IT WILL TAKE VP'S DURING EACH CROSSING AS WELL AS OFFICIALS OF AIR FRANCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS WHO ORDERED THE AIRCRAFT.

TO SHOW WHAT INTEREST IS SHOWN IN THESE ENDURANCE FLIGHTS, AEROSPATIALE STATED IN A COMMUNIQUE THAT IT APPEARED TIMELY, AS WELL AS TO THE BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, TO COMPLETE THE EXPERIMENT BY A SERIES OF FLIGHTS OVER TYPICAL COMMERCIAL ROUTES. FOR THIS REASON, STARTING MONDAY 27TH, CONCORDE 002 WILL TRAVEL THE ROUTE PARIS-RIO DE JANEIRO VIA DAKAR.

THESE ENDURANCE FLIGHTS WERE PLANNED OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTE FOR WHICH THIS AIRCRAFT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED. PARIS NEW-YORK WAS THE FIRST CHOICE, HOWEVER SEVERAL DIFFICULTIES AROSE BECAUSE OF THE RETICENCE OF THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES IN THE U.S. AND THE POPULATIONS NEAR KENNEDY AIRPORT, LIKEWISE FOR MONTREAL WHICH WAS THE SECOND CHOICE.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING FLIGHTS TO RIO, THE BUILDER HAD TO, NOT ONLY OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES BUT ALSO THAT OF THE SENEGAL.

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CONCORDE HAS ALREADY BEEN TO SOUTH AMERICA IN SEPTEMBER 1971 DURING THE AIRSHOW AT SAO-PAULO. THE AIRCRAFT, AT THAT TIME, WAS THE FIRST PROTOTYPE 001 WITH A SMALLER RANGE. CONCORDE 001, WHICH LEFT TOULOUSE, WAS COMPELLED TO MAKE 2 STOPS, THE FIRST IN CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, THE SECOND AT CAYENNE, FRENCH GUINEA. THIS WAS THE FIRST INTERCONTINENTAL FLIGHT FOR THAT AIRCRAFT.

THE SECOND BIG TRIP TOOK PLACE IN MAY-JUNE 1971 BY THE
2ND PROTOTYPE BUILT IN ENGLAND WHICH WENT TO AUSTRALIA
AND JAPAN. LAST YEAR, SOUTH AFRICA WAS USED FOR SPECIFIC
TESTS ON TEMPERATURE. LAST SEPTEMBER, 002 FLEW TO
VENEZUELA AND TO THE U.S. AT THE OPENING
CEREMONIES OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH AIRPORT. ON ITS RETURN
FLIGHT, IT CROSSED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE NORTH ATLANTIC
NON-STOP LINKING WASHINGTON TO PARIS (6,171 KM) IN 3 HRS
33 MINUTES. A SHORT TIME AGO, THE SAME AIRCRAFT WENT TO
ALASKA TO COMPLETE COLD WEATHER TRIALS. AFP 244,
MAY 22, 1974".
STONE UNQUOTE BROWN

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